

Appl. No. 09/412,792
Amendment Dated November 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 22, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of broadcasting data, comprising:

sending to a receiver scheduling information that includes a scheduled time and identifies an encoding format, wherein the encoding format comprises a content format used to encode the data prior to broadcasting and apart from encoding the broadcast for transmission through a transport medium;

wherein said scheduling information is capable of processing by the receiver prior to the scheduled time to select selecting one viewer application from a plurality of viewer applications prior to the scheduled time based on said scheduling information, said viewer application which are stored on the receiver and are capable of processing the broadcast of data in the encoding format at the scheduled time or to update the receiver with a new viewer application capable of processing the broadcast of data in the encoding format; and

broadcasting the data at the scheduled time.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sent information identifies one of a viewer age and a content provider for the data.

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4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the sent information identifies a channel for broadcasting the data; and
the broadcast transmits the data in the identified channel.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the identified channel comprises one of a cable channel, a wireless channel, and a multicast group address.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the viewer applications decode broadcasted data.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the broadcasting starts at a predetermined time after the sending of the information.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the content format is an ATVEF format.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending second information about a second scheduled time and content format for a broadcast of new data, the second content format being indicative of a new viewer application for processing the new data; and
then broadcasting the new data during the second scheduled time.

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10. (currently amended) A method of processing data, comprising:

receiving scheduling information providing broadcast times for data broadcasts and information to identify an encoding format ~~and one viewer application, selected from a plurality of viewer applications prior to the broadcast times, to process the data broadcasts in the encoding format at a scheduled broadcast time~~, wherein the encoding format comprises a content format used to encode the data prior to broadcasting and apart from encoding the broadcast for transmission through a transport medium;

processing the scheduling information prior to the broadcast times to select a viewer application from a plurality of viewer applications which are stored at a receiver and are capable of processing the data broadcasts in the encoding format at the broadcast times or to update the receiver with a new viewer application capable of processing the data broadcasts in the encoding format;

receiving data from one of the broadcasts at the scheduled broadcast time; and
processing the received data with the selected or new viewer application.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the scheduling information identifies channels scheduled to broadcast the data.

12. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the scheduling information associated with a portion of the broadcasts identifies one of content formats, viewer ages, and content providers of the associated data.

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13. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the processing comprises:

decoding the received data.

14. (currently amended): A method of processing data, comprising:

receiving scheduling information that provides broadcast times for data broadcasts and information for identifying an encoding format ~~and a viewer application, selected from a plurality of viewer applications prior to the broadcast times, for processing the broadcasts in the encoding format at scheduled broadcast times, wherein~~ the encoding format comprises a content format used to encode the data prior to broadcasting and apart from encoding the broadcast for transmission through a transport medium; ~~and~~

writing the scheduling information to a scheduling table having entries indexed by scheduled broadcast times and channels; and

processing the scheduling information prior to the broadcast times to select a viewer application from a plurality of viewer applications which are stored at a receiver and are capable of processing the data broadcasts in the encoding format at the broadcast times or to update the receiver with a new viewer application capable of processing the data broadcasts in the encoding format.

15-17. (canceled)

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18. (currently amended) A system for receiving data broadcasts, comprising:
an interface to receive scheduling information that provides broadcast times and
broadcasts of data in an encoding format, wherein the encoding format comprises a
content format used to encode the data prior to broadcasting and apart from encoding the
broadcast for transmission through a transport medium;
a data storage device storing a plurality of viewer applications to decode the
broadcasts of received data; and
a processor coupled to the data storage device, the processor to process the
scheduling information prior to the broadcast times to select viewer applications from a
plurality of viewer applications on said data storage device and capable of processing the
broadcasts of data at the broadcast times in the encoding format for the broadcasts or to
update the data storage device with a new viewer application capable of processing the
prior to receiving broadcasts of data in based on scheduling information and the encoding
format for the broadcasts.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the data storage device further
stores an executable control application for updating a scheduling table in response to
receiving new scheduling information for a broadcast of data.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the control
application selects the viewer application to decode data based on information from the
scheduling table.

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21. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the control application selects the viewer application based on availability data for the viewer applications stored in a viewer application selection table.

22. (currently amended) A data storage device encoding computer executable instructions for a method of broadcasting data, the instructions to cause a system to:
send scheduling information to a receiver about a scheduled time and encoding format for a broadcast of data, ~~the encoding format being indicative of one viewer application selected from a plurality of viewer applications prior to the scheduled time for processing the data in the encoding format at the scheduled time~~, wherein the encoding format comprises a content format used to encode the data prior to broadcasting and apart from encoding the broadcast for transmission through a transport medium, wherein said scheduling information is capable of processing by the receiver prior to the scheduled time to select one viewer application from a plurality of viewer applications which are stored on the receiver and are capable of processing the broadcast of data in the encoding format at the scheduled time or to update the receiver with a new viewer application capable of processing the broadcast of data in the encoding format; and
broadcast the data at the scheduled time.

23. (original) The device of claim 22, wherein the information identifies one of a content provider, a viewer age, and a scheduled broadcast channel for the data.

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24. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the instructions further cause the system to broadcast the data at a predetermined time after the sending of the information.

25. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the instructions further cause the system to:

broadcast second information about a second scheduled time and content format for a broadcast of new data, the second content format being indicative of another viewer application selected from a plurality of viewer applications to process the new data; and then, broadcast the new data at the second scheduled time.

26. (currently amended): A data storage device storing executable instructions, the instructions to cause a computer to:

receive scheduling information for encoding formats and broadcast times of broadcasts of data, wherein the encoding format comprises a content format used to encode the data prior to broadcasting and apart from encoding the broadcast for transmission through a transport medium;

process the scheduling information prior to the broadcast times to select a viewer application from a plurality of viewer applications which are stored at a receiver and are capable of processing the broadcasts of data in the encoding format at the broadcast times or to update the receiver with a new viewer application capable of processing the broadcasts of data in the encoding format;

receive data from one of the broadcasts at a scheduled broadcast time; and

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process the received data with a viewer application for processing in the encoding format, ~~the selection of a viewer application from a plurality of viewer applications being responsive to the scheduling information and prior to the scheduled broadcast time for the one of the broadcasts.~~

27. (original) The device of claim 26, wherein the scheduling information identifies channels scheduled to broadcast the data.

28. (original) The device of claim 26, wherein the instructions to process further causes the computer to:

decode the received data.

29. (original) The device of claim 26, the instructions further causing the computer to:

write the scheduling information to a scheduling table having entries indexed by scheduled broadcast times; and

wherein the instruction causing the computer to process causes the computer to select the viewer application based on data from the scheduling table.

30. (original) The device of claim 26, wherein the instruction causing the computer to process causes the computer to:

select the viewer application from a viewer application selection table listing available viewer applications.